

1895

Journal of

Acapules

July 1<sup>st</sup> to March

8<sup>th</sup> Pochutla,  
Oaxaca

E. C. Nelson

3/134

113

Due from E.A.G.  
Nov 1<sup>st</sup> 76 89  
Dec 1<sup>st</sup> 50-  
Jan 1<sup>st</sup> 50  
Feb 1<sup>st</sup> 50  

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226.89  
Stamps Feb. 11 = 11.66  

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238.55

1.96/22.83 (11.66)

1.96  
32.3  
19.6  
127.0  
117.6  
12.4

Mr. H. Wheeler  
Duxbury

3  
Acapulco (Guerrero)

On Jan'y 1<sup>st</sup>, 95. We left our camp at La Venta de Aguacatillo & crossing a sandy flat ascended to the top of a low ridge. From the top of this pass at about 1000 ft. we could see the ocean & across to the shore of the bay lay the town of acapulco about 6 miles beyond. descending the steep rocky slope we came to a gate & custom house where all articles entering the town pay porto <sup>toggoo</sup> duties. By use of my letters I managed to get our outfit through without examination. descending to the narrow plain which lies between the foot-hills & the bay glimpses of the sea were seen but soon shut off by the cocoa-nut groves scattered along the shore. The hills are lying all

about the oval bay forming  
the harbor. This bay is 3 or 4 miles  
across & is partly sheltered from  
the sea by a couple of rocky islands  
making a fine sheltered anchorage  
~~so~~ just in front of town which  
lies at the north side of the bay -  
a small old fashioned fort with  
moat & drawbridge is built on  
a low hill at the edge of town on the  
shore & a pest quarantine hospital  
is built on the outer island.  
The town is along the water & thence  
up the slope of the bordering hills & contains  
about 4000 people. Close by is a  
graveyard said to contain over 100000  
dead, including 2 am. consuls, thus showing  
the deadly character of the climate.  
The present consul, Edgar Battle, told  
me that the deaths here far exceed the  
births. The town is very poorly built  
mainly of adobe houses all of one  
story except some 4 or 5. About the  
borders of town & numbering over half  
the population are the huts, jacals of  
the native people. This is a coaling  
station of the P.M.S.C. & many war  
vessels coal here.

A considerable percentage of  
the natives here are mixed  
Negro & Indian blood -  
The hills which rise all about the bay  
are of granite and are overgrown  
with low woods of scrubby trees &  
bushes. Between the town & sea  
a narrow ridge cuts off the  
bay & is supposed to add to the  
unhealthiness of the town. The people  
began a cut through a narrow  
& low part of this barrier some years  
ago but gave it up & it now lies  
like so many other things in this  
country that are started with great  
enthusiasm only to be abandoned  
as soon as the novelty of the idea  
wears off -

On our arrival we  
found the "Hotel Pacifico" where the  
U.S. Consul & a few other Americans  
were boarding. Among these I was  
surprised to meet Dr. E. Palmer who is  
here collecting plants. From  
the 1st to 9th of Jan. we remained  
at Acapulco resting from the trip

and working the vicinity.  
For the last two days on the flood in,  
& two days after my arrival I coughed  
a little blood but this soon ceased,  
& I soon felt pretty well over the  
effects of my illness at Chilpancingo.  
In Acapulco are stationed 1500  
soldiers which are held as a menace  
since the insurrection & in this  
region, the fall of 1893 -  
The presence of these troops has  
added to the general unhealthi-  
ness of the town. The soldiers are  
followed by their women & some  
children & these camp about in all  
manners of shelters & are seen  
cooking messes of food for their men  
over little fires in corners & sheltered  
places near the grates.  
These women have the reputation of  
being great thieves & are said to steal  
all manner of small articles that  
they encounter about town. The soldiers  
are also equally bad as they are largely made  
up of criminals who are forced to enlist.  
During our stay at Acapulco several parties  
one consisting of about between 200 & 300 men,  
were brought into town under a strong  
guard & were enlisted. These are mainly  
men taken from jails about the country  
when they were confined for various

offenses & were released & brought  
in by the recruiting party sent out  
to get a new supply of men. These  
men desert at every opportunity. My  
assistant was going along a trail  
at the foot of the hill beyond town one  
morning when a soldier, came running  
by, gun in hand & panting, with a  
scared look on his face, & as he came  
unexpectedly upon Goldmar he  
exclaimed "you have not seen a  
soldier running away with a gun  
near here have you?" & not waiting  
for a reply continued his flight.  
Directly after getting out of sight along  
the trail he turned into the thicket &  
was not seen again. ~~had seen them~~  
~~place~~ During my stay here the  
soldiers were drilled on an open  
space along the sea shore & a  
narrow stone walled open ditch  
about 18 - 24 in. wide crossed  
the drill ground. The company of horses  
here were taken across this small  
opening many times & never without  
out from 1 to 6 or 8 of the horses falling  
in this insignificant ditch which

was so narrow that the infantry marched across it without breaking their steps. It was a ridiculous scene to observe to see this much noted body of Cavalry partly rolling on the ground & the rest of the troop broken into great confusion by such an obstacle.

During one drill witnessed the soldiers were given a rest in the middle of the exercises & the most prominent women who swarmed in among the men the moment the ranks were broken. Many of these women carried clay jars & dishes with food & numbers of the men ate on the spot. The necessity for eating there could not have been greater the drill only lasted from two hours in the last half of the P.M. & was held within 10 minutes walk of the barracks.

This is a great peculiarity of these people, however, to eat at all hours & places. One sees it in travelling as sellers of cooked food swarm about the trains at a large proportion of the stations & find buyers constantly so that one sees eating going on from morning until night.

Many skins of a good, thin skinned quality are shipped to San Francisco from this place. Living here is the family of a son of the old Californian Sutter of Sutter's Fort & nearly

gold digging excitement  
They are from a Mexican mother but all talk English.

\* While walking through the bushes at the border of town one day I came across the old Cannons that once formed the defense of the fort but have been thrown aside here as out of date & useless.

Back of town the hills rise in a high ridge to from 2500-3000 ft. & appear to be a <sup>broken</sup> spur-like range extending out from the high mts. of the interior.

The country in general is overgrown with thickets & low woods nowhere becoming a heavy forest although many species of the humid tropical zone occur, such as mahogany,

Logwood (Palo de Campeche) India rubber & others. The summer climate is damp & hot but the winters are not very. At 2000 ft. above town the climate is much cooler & 2 small species of oaks that I have not seen elsewhere are common.

One great cause of the unhealthiness of this locality is due to the great change in temp. between night & day. The ordinary temp. in shade during the middle of the day was from 78 to 84° while at night there was a fall of

from 12 to 20°. The air being damp  
this change ~~is~~<sup>was</sup> a severe one &  
deaths from consumption are numerous.  
During my stay I contracted a very severe  
cold which laid me up on the road.  
Gold is reported to have been found in small  
grains & nuggets in the small streams  
coming out of the hills near town  
here but no effort has been made  
to develop any placers or other mines  
so even stop & go. The authorities  
here are said not to look favorably on any  
work of this kind.

On Jan 9<sup>th</sup> we made a trip along the  
coast in a canoe to the bay of El Marques,  
a small bay just south of Acapulco Bay,  
where it is said that Coste<sup>r</sup> refitted his  
boats while working on this coast.  
This may be a legendary idea with  
small foundation.

At the Marques we stopped at the  
Pueblo or Hda. del Potrero & stayed  
for several days collecting. ~~Day after~~  
~~the house where we stayed is built~~  
on a sand ridge within 100 yds of the  
open sea shore the nights were very  
damp & cold. One unexpected thing  
noticed along the coast here is the scarcity of  
sea fowl. A few Blk. Skimmers, Man o' war birds  
and Brown Pelicans were all that were  
noted. No seawards were seen either  
in Acapulco Bay or elsewhere along the  
shore.

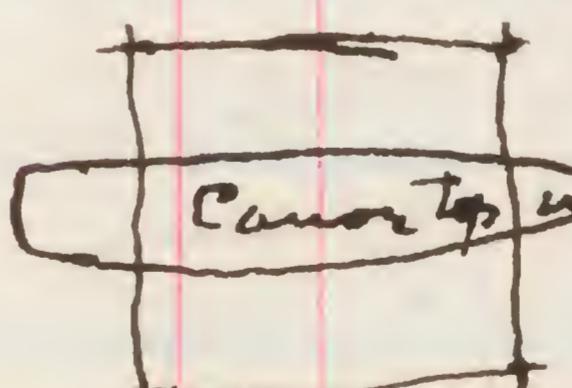
RTH

on the coast

During our stay the weather remained  
clear but a faint smokiness in  
a layer over the sea showed  
the presence of a thin humid belt.

The Hda. del Potrero lies about  
5000 lime trees in a very neglected  
state & full of mistletoe & other  
parasites. On the brushy  
sand dunes bordering the shore  
at this ranch are thousands of large  
rabbits & about the coconut  
groves are many animals which  
eat the nuts & flowers.

After several days we returned to  
Acapulco in a long dugout canoe  
with outriggers lashed across  
to project on each side thus:



These are made of a couple  
of stout poles of equal  
length lashed crosswise

on canoe & then a couple of lighter  
poles lashed across them projecting  
ends & having a downward curve.

In the stern a man steers with  
a broad bladed paddle & 2 or 4 oars-  
men row. The oars are lashed to

## San Marcos—

an upright thole pin & have short rounded blades.

\*On the morning of Jan 2<sup>nd</sup>, at 4.48 A.M. I was awakened by the sudden outburst of furious barking of all the dogs in town. A moment later I heard a low faint roar like the sound of distant breakers. This increased rapidly apparently coming from the mts. until the air became filled with the loud swelling roar that seemed to come rushing upon the town like the terrifying sound of some fierce beast. Suddenly as the noise was at its loudest a sharp but light earthquake shock was felt & the noise died away toward the sea. This was the ~~strangest~~ most startling noise I have heard coming from such a cause & was decidedly alarming.

On the 29<sup>th</sup> of Jan. we left Acap. and started back toward Oaxaca keeping along the coast through the low hills & across level stretches. On the 30<sup>th</sup> we reached San Marcos a village of

perhaps a couple of thousand people. During the 29<sup>th</sup> Goldman had a severe chill on the road & that night a high fever. We failed to find any stopping place until after dark. Then we found a small group of wicker huts before some of which were burning small fires about which the women were cooking supper. Riding up to the first of these I asked if we might stop for the night & was granted a ready assent. The people were poor Indian & part negro blood. They were well disposed & very civil. While we made our arrangements for the night various villages came up & sat about watching us curiously but with unobtrusive manners. The children were running about naked & the woman was naked to the waist a Calico skirt tied about the waist by a string being her only garment. For a small sum she let me have her wattle bed under a shed in front of the house where I slept. The raw air added to the torquess to

my throat so that when we reached San Marcos I felt compelled to give up going farther until it was better. Goldman also was sick from the frost so that both of us had the pleasure of being invalids at the same time. Fortunately we found a comfortable place to stop at the house of Senora Margarita Guinones.

Beriy 3<sup>rd</sup> to Tobi 8<sup>th</sup>

We remained at San Marcos - I had a severe sore throat & inflamed bronchial tubes which were very difficult to cure. Fortunately it finally began to leave me (the inflammation) without any present serious consequences. As already noted San Marcos contains several ~~the hundred thousand~~ people. They are Indian & mixed bloods (negro) & are a rough brutal lot of savages. The fall of 1893 they killed the govt tax collector or her in a fiendish manner. The party of men were drinking with him in the most friendly way one evening in the house of Sra. Guinones & the next am. these with others numbering about 25 in all caught the Collector & taking him outside of town stripped & shot him. Then they cut out his eyes & tied him to a stout pole by one

hand & one foot & then holding the naked body thus aloft paraded through the town with it & afterwards buried it half within & half without the consecrated ground of the ~~the church~~ <sup>the church</sup> burial ground. None of the men taking part in this affair were punished. The chief sport of the men here is to get drunk & then parade the streets firing guns & pistols sometimes for a long part of the night. One of the leaders in this sport is said to be the "Presidente". The Sra. Guinones is the widow of an old Mex. General & has with her a daughter of 35 or 40 yrs. also a widow with several children. They are much more civilized than the people among whom they live & have the largest store & their house is the usual stopping place for travellers. For the first 2 or 3 days of my stay here the two women & the children sat at the table with us but becoming a little acquainted they lost their shyness & I was surprised to see them place their dinner on the floor near the foot of the table & on a cloth & the entire family squatted about eating with their hands from little bowl like eastern dishes & a few plates without a knife fork or spoon.

The old lady divided the meat with her fingers among the others and the meal was eaten after the true Indian fashion.

This is an example of the uncultured status of these people yet the old lady had been in San Francisco & some other parts of Cal. with her husband & came from the tablelands of Guanajuato.

She served our meat the same way i.e., took the large pieces of fried meat into small fragments with her fingers & also dismembered chickens the same way.

She was a very kind old woman & in doing such things merely did as she was accustomed.

Some ~~meat~~ roast meat was brought in uncut one night & no knife provided so I asked for a clean knife to cut it. She looked about the table & then asked an Indian who was eating at the foot of the table for the knife he was eating with, (he was a remarkable exception in this).

He wiped the knife on the table-cloth & handed it to her but I hastily interposed my own knife & afterwards managed to get along without expecting much refinement of service.

Stopping at this place was a young French-American, Paul Silva, who is hunting this coast with 4 native hunters after plumes of the white heron. So far he has found them scarce & rather scattered. He has been killing the birds since Dec.

for the few plumes some have the 25¢ ~~regets out of each skin.~~ He reports Alligators as being common in the lagoons of the coast here. These do considerable damage to stock & a few cases are told of their having killed people. Some are said to attain great size. Finally my health & became so that I could proceed on the journey & we left here on the 8th & travelled all day in a S.E. course & were forced to keep going until night fall overtook us before we reached the town of Copala. Then we got permission to stop overnight at the house of the storekeeper here named Macario Figueroa. Here we found the storekeeper a half caste Spanish-Indian who does considerable business & is worth some property. He is married to an Indian woman & had a boy of about 5 or 6 running about naked. For supper we had dried meat, coffee, tortillas & pepper sauce. For breakfast the same. The meat & sauce were put on each in a single plate & they evidently expected two of us to eat out of the same dish. When I asked for a couple of plates to eat from the woman appeared surprised & asked what I wished them for. I told her & she handed them to me with a look of disdain on her face.

I then asked for knives & forks at which she went into the next room & I heard her tell Figueroa that we wished knives & forks in a tone of condemnation at such a demand. She soon returned without them for no such article existed in the house so we ate with our fingers -

The next day (9<sup>th</sup>) we went on for another long day to the village of Juchitango - which like San Marcos & Copala is built about 6 or 8 miles from the sea - & contains several hundred people.

On the morning of the 10<sup>th</sup> we went on and reached Ometepec early in the afternoon. Nearly all the villages & the small groups of huts called Cazadillas that we passed from San Marcos to Ometepec are built on dry tops of low hills where they get the breeze from the sea & are also out of the unhealthy bottoms. Water is carried to many of these villages from a mile or more in earthen jars.

Soon after leaving Juchitango we noticed that in the villages & ranches we passed through a large proportion of the houses were round with conical roofs - These houses like the regular ones are built by setting upright poles in the ground close together & capping them about 7 or 8 ft. from the ground by the

roof of poles lashed together by vines or tough bark & covered by a thick grass thatch - the latter being often covered with palm leaves - These houses have an opening left in one side for a door & have one or more platforms for sleeping made by extending a set of thin sticks fastened together in two places over the frame. On this a mat is spread & the bed is complete. Very commonly a hammock is hung inside or outside below the shade of a shed like structure or roof on 4 posts built just outside & against the house. In the larger villages usually one or more square houses have tiled roofs. When we came near Ometepec we met large no's of people on foot or riding mules, donos, or horses. Some of the women outside. They were on their way home from market day at Ometepec. Reaching the latter place we ~~had~~ found no place to stop at at first as there is no hotel or other guest house in town. Finally we found the store of Mr. Luis Mendez - an American who has lived here a long time & was given the privilege of stopping

here while in town. This place contains several thousand people but is a very poor appearing town as the houses are nearly all of very rough primitive architecture. We were particularly surprised to see the almost ruined condition of the place from effects of the earthquake of Nov. 2 94. The walls have leaned & cracked in all directions, porches have fallen & a number of houses fell during after the earthquake. The entire town appears as if ready to come to the ground at the next sharp shock - During the night of the 11th-12<sup>th</sup> there sets of light shocks were felt. First came 3 shocks in ~~an~~ quick succession the first one awoke us & when the roof & walls began to crack from the second & second tone a few moments later I sprang for the door. Goldman attempted to follow but damaged his shin against the corner of a box on his way while a Spanish Clerk who slept back of us sprang wildly against our legs we could hear him struggling to get by & becoming more frightened as he made more noise. When the shocks were passed he went back to bed groaning & acting as if quite ill for some minutes.

Since Nov. 2d we are told that slight shocks have occurred here very frequently. From the extent of damage to the houses here it is evident that this last quake was much heavier than at any other place we have visited.

~~Next~~ Next - Between Jan 25 & 28<sup>th</sup> '95 the people of Acapulco were notified by telegram to the Prefecto that the Gov't wished them & the residents of the district to make it a loan of \$10,000 to assist in paying expenses of the war with Guatemala (which has not been declared). There were several meetings of the businessmen & it was decided to raise the money provided the Gov't would turn into a sinking fund to repay the loan all profits from the Custom house there beginning with the date of the loan. To this proposition the Gov't agreed. I was informed afterward.

RTH

Pb

Hacienda  
del Capricho

On the 17<sup>th</sup> we left Ometepic & made 9 miles in a S.E. course to the Hda. del Capricho on the E. side of the Sta. Calonina Riv. This is the property of Señor Mendez. There is a small cotton field here & a small group of negroes mixed blood who grow corn & cotton on the lands of the Hda. They pay \$1<sup>00</sup> a year for lands. Each one uses for corn & 300 for cotton land. The native houses are all round huts & the people of all this coast are very ignorant & brutal. They all carry machetes and when driving these in blood fights at the least provocation. Huge deep scars across the face are common among the men as results of these brawls. When sober they are cowardly & peaceable enough. They are very lazy & have an extremely rude agriculture. For a corn crop they clear a piece of woods burning off the smaller material. Then corn or cotton is planted merely by making small holes in the undisturbed soil & putting in the seed. It is a common belief among them that land will not yield a second good crop so the next year they clear another piece & leave the former one to grow wild again. In this way the community works over

a large extent of country in a few years and destroys great values in rubber, teak mahogany, Brazil & Campeche & Rosewood. Mr. Mendez gives this as the reason for a present scarcity of rubber trees along the coast where they do well & get to be a fair size in damp bottom land. A curious thing is noted in a quite general use of American oxes along this coast south of Acapulco which seem out of place among ~~the~~ poor tools. The practice of wife stealing is followed all along the coast country from Acapulco south among the negroes & half mixed bloods. The man usually arranges with the woman or girl & she is outside the house when he comes with ~~them~~ his friends, on horseback & she is carried off to some other village & after they have lived together as man & wife some time the man goes to the father of the girl & asks his pardon for having taken his daughter & this is granted. Then the bride comes back to dance is given at expense of groom in the house of bride's parents. Should the girl not wish to go the man desire her then he goes to her house suddenly with a number of companions while some keep off the father & brothers.

Mem - Years ago considerate  
places gold was found in the  
bed of a small creek just  
back of the edge of town at Alca-  
puleo. Much excitement it was  
created along the coast & at San  
Francisco. A lot of american  
miners began to come in &  
then the Governor of the state  
issued an order prohibiting any  
further places mining there &  
so the matter has remained  
until now. The formation is gray  
granite. It has been suggested  
that this gold was from Cal.  
& that in the early days it had  
been stolen & hidden in this  
small wash & never recovered  
until the bag decayed & the gold  
was washed down the bed of  
the wash by summer rains.

others carry off the woman by force.  
If the father or brother is absent  
or absent when a woman is  
being taken it is the proper etiquette  
for them to attack the lover &  
his friends with their machetes.  
For this reason the latter usually go  
in force enough to overpower  
resistance.

Cotton sells at the gin for  
for ~~\$~~ 3cts. a lb. uncleaned  
& the cleaned cotton is  
worth 12¢. The seed has no  
value although a soap factory  
is just starting near here.

Small cotton gins are  
working all over the coast  
country in this part of Guat-  
ero & adjacent parts of Cox-

Mr. Chas. A. Miller & Luis  
Mendez, both americans  
living P.O. Ometepe or  
large land owners here.

Mr. Mendez told me that he had

Mem.

On Hda. del Capricho  
are some ancient  
artificial mounds

Mem. Living on walls of  
houses at Acapulco &  
along the damp coast belt  
is a small semitransparent  
lizard called Salamanqueza  
it was hidden during the  
day but came out & ran  
about on the walls in the eve.  
They had a loud chirping call,  
note something like chick,  
chick, chick, This was heard  
usually at dusk or about  
dawn. They eat small insects  
flies, &c

purchased land amounting  
to 180 square miles for about  
\$ 20,000 dollars. The damp river  
bottoms are utilized in the dry  
season for corn & grass.  
During the rains they are  
overflowed over most of this  
surface. Cotton is grown on  
parts above high water mark.  
Tigers are reported to occur here  
rather commonly in the  
rocky hills on which a  
long growth of brush trees is found.  
Saw several pheasants like the  
Penelope later in evening.  
During the time your stay at the  
Hda. from 12<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> several  
slight earth quakes were felt  
which were always accompanied by  
a dull rumbling sound which  
was always heard in advance  
of the shock and ended with it. On  
one or two occasions the noise  
was heard without perceptible  
shock.

RTH

Feb 16<sup>th</sup> we wroton about  
15 miles to the ~~town~~ village of Lampaule  
when we stopped at the house of  
one of the principal men.  
Here we remained the 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup>  
as my horse became very lame  
at the Hda. & I hoped to cure him  
here. The smith at Metepie  
had driven a nail into his  
 hoof so to lame him. This place  
is across the line into Oax. &  
is on the border of a large  
dry plain partly open ~~but~~  
grassy country but about half  
covered with a low growth of  
trees & bushes which are found  
along drainage courses & slopes  
or hollows where the soil  
best retains moisture.  
The people here are ~~mostly~~ mainly of  
negro blood & the village is  
made up of a mixture of mud  
& square jacales with a  
few small adobe houses -  
We had very poor service

so far as food went as it was  
made up of a little <sup>dried</sup> meat with  
tortillas. The people were ex-  
cessively dirty and our dried  
meat would be set before  
us on a <sup>single</sup> plate & the tortillas  
laid on a filthy fragment of  
cloth & so the table was ready  
for us to go ahead with the  
meal. The entire family in-  
cluding father, several boys  
2 girls of 10 & 11 & 2 servant women  
to man slept in the <sup>over</sup> Corridor  
on rude ~~bed~~ frames covered  
with stretched cowhide. Many  
of the women went about  
them naked from waist up but  
usually with a ~~Tobacco~~ thrown  
about head & shoulders.

Although oranges, bananas &  
other fruits might be grown  
by these people they are only  
raised in a very few instances  
from the indolence of the people.  
Cotton & Corn with some beans &  
tobacco are the crops grown.

worming is planted by the  
indirect methods & always by  
deforesting a piece of land  
every year or two at the end of  
the second crop the land has  
become so hard that no more  
crops can grow on it. Here  
we secured a number of  
porcupines (synethers) &  
tried to get ant hills but none  
were secured although they  
occur here in small mts.

While here a child of 10 years  
died & was laid by a board with  
paper flowers about her &  
then a zandango started &  
continued that day all the follow  
ing night & until the next after  
noon when the people left the  
house in procession a woman  
carrying the body on the board  
on top of her head & passing  
slowly through the village singing  
a slow chant in company  
with the others. They went to the  
church door with the body

the bell under a low shed  
nearby was rung a few times  
then the procession went  
on now in silence to a open  
yard outside the village where  
the child was buried without  
coffin of any kind even the board  
on which she had been carried  
being brought back to the house.  
The abundance of wood on every  
hand left no excuse for  
burying in this way except for  
the excessive indolence of these  
people. They are easily excited  
to brutality & have the reputation  
of being readily hired to do  
murders. Two of the negroes  
of this section were hired a  
few months since to assassinate  
Mr. Miller at Guajiniculapa  
who shot at him twice without  
succeeding. They had nothing  
against him & it was supposed  
that the attempt was made

by a neighbor who objected  
to milled Sowing land & forcing  
it when he had desire to  
let his cattle run.

During our stay here two or  
three slight earthquakes were  
noticed. On the 19th we left  
& proceeded 24 miles further  
to the town of Pinotepa del  
Estado. My horse was very  
lame should to be led. Here  
a blacksmith fixed its hoofs  
said it would recover in a  
few days - so we are forced to  
another aggravating delay.

Pinotepa has about 2000  
people & is a straggling town  
on an irregular SW. slope -  
Its main business is with  
the cotton crop of the low land  
& stock raising. A considerable  
number of whitewashed adobe  
houses are found along the

winding, irregular,

main street along which  
the highway to Oaxaca passes.  
There is a Telegraph office,  
Post Office & several stores  
here. The people are mainly  
mixtecos or mixed blood,  
of Spanish descent. Negroes &  
their strains are very few  
but are said to be numerous  
on the lowlands near the coast.  
The Indians here speak a  
dialect of the mixtec which  
varies very little from that of  
the interior. This section forms  
a part of the mixteca baja -

The people (indians) still wear  
here their ancient costumes.

The men a pair of wide cotton  
trousers fastened at the waist  
by a sash & a short jacket  
of drillic or heavy cotton cloth  
dyed a dull burnt brown.  
This jacket has no collar  
& comes down to the upper  
edge of the trousers so that

the body of the woman about  
the waist becomes exposed at  
almost every movement.

Fastened to the ~~back~~ upper  
border of the jacket behind  
are two little tassels of colored  
threads of some shade of red.

The people usually go barefoot  
although some sandals are used.

These jackets of the men are  
not open in front but  
are put on over the head -

The cowmen wear tight ragged  
breeches of tanned deer skin  
dyed brown with a jacket of  
the same color having long  
 sleeves that hang over the hand  
with a slit on one side below  
so that the hand is not  
wholly enclosed. The  
Indian women were walking about  
town by scores naked from

the waist up. A tight skirt  
consisting of a broad strip of  
striped, handwoven cloth is  
wrapped tightly about the hips  
& hangs straight down to the ankles.  
This is held in place by a handwoven  
~~sash~~. About their heads the  
women usually wear a  
square piece of handwoven  
white cotton cloth that  
usually hangs about the  
shoulders so may cover  
nearly all of the body or  
be folded merely on the head  
leaving the body quite naked  
above the waist. Sometimes  
the white cloth is replaced  
by the "huipil" which is a  
sack like garment coming  
to the knees & with short flowing  
sleeves & one open at the top by  
a round hole for inserting the

~~men -~~

Mexican newspapers publish  
that at sea near Ometepe  
after the earthquake of Nov.  
2d evidence of a submarine  
volc. had been seen & a  
light given out by it.

Mr. Mendez who lives ten  
towns lands extending  
to this part of the coast dis-  
credits this statement.

Lava is said to be found on  
plains about Guapinicape.

head. These huipiles are  
of hand woven cotton cloth  
with various figures woven  
into the cloth & with an  
embroidered band about  
the neck opening & stripes  
running from shoulders to hem  
before & behind. Many of the  
younger women are pleasant  
faced & rather attractive appearing  
the breasts are mostly well formed  
& hang down flat & pendulous  
in the middle aged or old ones.  
They sell tortillas, fruit,  
dried fish, &c about the  
market here. Both men &  
women are short but rather  
well built many being stoutly  
proportioned. Their faces are  
rather short & oval & their  
heads feature while often rough  
or irregularly formed are  
generally fairly well proportioned

Men - When Americans come to Mexico many of the children except in rare cases grow up in the local society with the ideas & habits of their Mexican associates so that the result is that they become part of the common population with none of the force & character that may have made their fathers successful. The father adopts the native tongue & in the case of Mr. Luis Mendez the children know no English.

Their cheek bones are not very prominent and the general form of the face is a short oval. The men wear the hair cut rather short. The women have long & rather coarse black hair which is twisted into a long roll & then wrapped like a band about the crown. The color is a rich ~~brown~~ warm brown. Their eyes are dark brown.

As a rule their noses are straight ~~or somewhat flattened~~ with rather rounded thick ends. ~~that~~ A small proportion of them have aquiline noses & some faces are strangely like a typical Sioux countenance but these are rare. These people do trading with those of the interior. All products from this part of

Oax. & adjacent port of  
Fuels, are shipped from the  
Bay of Tecoanapa at the  
mouth of the Rio Sta. Catarina.  
in Guat. While we were here  
at Puerto Potosí the Señor of  
the Municipio told me that a  
band of 6 bandits has been  
robbing for sometime on  
the roads of the coast country  
but although many efforts  
have been made to get them  
they have failed. Recently about  
200 men made an unsuccess-  
ful search for them. The same  
man said that when bandits are

## The President of Piñolepa

don

told me that from sometime  
in April 1894 to the present  
time, Feb. 22, 1895, the Jefe has  
had killed about 25 bandits.  
Although the death penalty is  
abolished by law in D.O.S.  
It is only by such methods that the  
country can be governed.

captured in this district  
the Jefe now in office orders them  
hung although by law the death  
penalty is abolished in this state.  
In March 1894 the Jefe Politico  
of this dist. (Janittape) was  
assassinated by bandits while  
riding through a cañon.  
The present Jefe has used the  
bandits with great severity  
and as a result the district  
is greatly improved - Before  
the present Jefe they tell me  
that horses & other animals  
were stolen from the town of  
Piñolepa at night & sometimes  
even corralls in town had to be  
guarded. Since robbing began  
to be rewarded by hanging the

people have become much  
more honest. At Llano Grande  
which is also in this dist.  
I was told the same thing.  
During my stay at Pinotepa  
I have lived in the municipal  
building, or town hall & have  
had a chance to see what is  
going on. The town has about  
2000 people & the rest of the  
municipality about as many more  
people, or 4000 in all. To attend  
to the writing & other business  
of this small community there  
has been on duty & busily occupied  
constantly a President recently  
a Regidor or 1 or 2 copyists  
a chief of Police 8 to 10 men  
besides the Jailer & 7 soldiers.  
Then there is the man who has

charge of the portago or local  
Customs. During the day there  
is a constant succession of people  
coming to see the President with  
all manner of little quarrals  
& complaints which he hears  
gravely & his judgment is  
usually final & accepted by  
the people. One case was  
of an Indian woman who came  
~~to~~ complain that her lover  
had struck her. He admitted it  
but alleged in defense that  
he had come in & found his  
woman with another man  
which she did not deny. When  
the case calls for it  
the offending party is put  
in jail or fined - The whole

proceeding has a kind  
of patriarchal look. The  
indians in their peculiar  
costumes & frequently squat-  
ting about on the floor while  
the case is being discussed  
but rising to speak each  
in his turn.

\* Copy notes in book

All the morning of Feb 23 my  
Assist. went on to Jiquila to  
do what work he can until my  
horse is well enough for me to  
go on. In the evg. of the 22<sup>d</sup>  
after dark a half dozen men came  
quietly to the municipio & were  
armed with revolvers & went  
off with the 8 soldiers here. They

Came & disappeared silently  
~~in~~ in their door or sandalled  
foot. They failed to get the men  
they were after as just before they  
reached their goal a body of  
100 men hunting bandits came  
there & their men took to the hills.  
A band of 6 to 8 bandits are being  
hunted vigorously but with no  
great success as two of them have  
been taken so far. They rob people  
of whatever they have such as  
costly hats, saddles &c. &c.

Among cases brought before  
the President was one of a vag-  
rant who was complained of by a  
notir as being without occupation

or means.

as such can only live by  
stealing they are given a term in  
jail with work on the streets.

Another man had a ~~fore~~ or  
workman brought in stating that  
the fellow had got pay in advance  
and then had gone away without  
working the proper time. The presi-  
dente talked to this man & told  
him he must work out his time  
if he ran away without doing so  
he would have him brought in  
~~&~~ straited like a thief. The  
man agreed to do the work & went off  
with his employer. The present  
gov't both local & general is

continually making efforts  
to suppress brigandage & similar  
crimes but the ignorance &  
degradation of vast numbers of the  
population make this difficult.

I was surprised to learn  
last night that none of the  
municipal officers are paid  
anything for their work except the  
secretary. This includes the  
police. The system here is to  
choose ~~# sets~~<sup>34</sup> sets of men  
~~each~~; 4 sets are named  
for police duty for a month,  
each set serving a week without  
pay. This set is then for until  
the end of the ~~second~~ month

or period of 4 weeks.  
They are four from this service  
for a year following their  
one of service - There are  
9 Regidors whose duties are  
to see to the proper condition  
of the schools, streets, public  
buildings & grounds & attend to  
any repairs <sup>or improvements</sup> that are being made  
(this is in Pinotepa).

At 7 P.M. on the 23<sup>d</sup> the band  
of 100 men who are hunting bandits  
passed through town some on  
horseback & some afoot -  
They were armed with such  
weapons as each possessed  
& a great variety of shotguns of  
old cheap patterns with no locks

to my few repeating rifles  
made up the list of pin armes,  
nearly everyone having ~~one or~~  
~~more than~~ some species of  
firearm & all carried machetes  
of which at least one half were  
carried naked in the hand. Tied  
to the saddles or slung over  
the left shoulder of the footmen  
were net-like sacks in  
which a supply of tortillas  
& dried meat for several days  
if necessary was carried.  
The party was made up wholly of  
negroes, part blood Indians  
wearing the common cotton

garments dirty dragged  
with wide felt hats, & made  
a wild, half savage looking  
band. \* In Pinotepa the  
frames & doors of houses, ~~the~~  
store fixtures furniture etc  
are largely made of mahogany  
of which boards a foot across  
are about as large as can be cut  
up to this size this wood is said  
to be common along this part  
of the coast as well as the Palo  
de Campeche.

\* The court held by the President  
of Pinotepa was an arbitrary  
but fatherly kind of an affair.  
One man came to complain

of a workman who had rec'd some  
pay in advance, as is the custom  
with these people, & had then run  
away without working it out. This  
man had been brought along by the  
complainant & the Pres. told him that  
he must return & work out his time  
or he would have him put in jail.  
Another complained of a man as  
a vagabond & he was sent to  
jail. An old woman complained  
of having been beaten by a man  
& he was put in jail. Every  
Sunday a general license is  
given for anyone to get drunk  
who wishes & he is not arrested  
unless he disturbs the peace.

During the rest of the work,  
however, anyone found about the  
streets under the influence of  
liquor is at once locked up.  
The new Gov. of the state has  
recently issued a circular  
to all authorities urging them  
to improve & keep in good  
repair the roads & particularly  
calls attention to the practice  
of burning over large tracts of  
forest & orders the local  
authorities to prevent this.  
Such circulars however  
will have but little effect  
when the authorities themselves  
are doing this on the common lands.

As no plows are used the land  
is roughly cleared & planted  
one or two seasons to corn or  
other crop. Then the soil becomes  
so hard packed that a crop  
cannot be grown & the land  
is abandoned & a new forest  
area is cut out for a field.  
As the most moist & richest  
spots of land on hill or bottom  
is selected it follows  
that the best parts of the forest  
are thus destroyed and as the  
dry brush on this newly  
cleared land is burned at the  
end of the dry season the fire  
extends into the woods on all

Tides often wash over large areas. On Feb 23<sup>d</sup> I sent my assistant on to Jiquilao with the outfit leaving me at Pinotepa until my horse can travel. Finally on the 28th I hired a horse to ride & taking a moso along to lead my horse & return with the other one, I left Pinotepa and crossed 22 miles of hilly country overgrown with brush & scrubby trees varied by a few barren grassy areas to the town of Jamiltepec the head of the district. The hills run from 100-500 ft. along road are all

of the same white granite noted  
somewhere along this coast. The  
town is at an alt. of about 1000 ft.  
and has numerous cocoanut palms  
scattered about the ~~place~~

It is a poor collection of huts  
or jacals with a few <sup>small</sup> poorly  
made adobe houses in the  
middle of the town. On the 2d of  
Nov. '94 the same strong  
earthquake shock was felt here  
as throughout this region on Dec.

30, '94 came another shock  
still heavier in this place which  
cracked the walls of many of the adobe build-  
ings and one corner of the new  
official building that is being  
erected here of brick.

From the time of the earthquake of  
Nov. 2<sup>d</sup> up to the present date  
earthquakes of slight force accom-  
panied by a rumbling noise  
have been of almost daily occur-  
rence & some days from 3 to 5 occur.  
The Jefe Politico Cristóbal  
Palací recently made a visit  
to the extinct crater of Cha-  
caña on the sea shore near  
Ver (close to Tututepic) to  
see if he could find any signs  
of recent disturbance but none  
were noted. The volc. is a low  
hill on the coast & has considerable  
sulfur <sup>burn</sup> mixed with scoria &c  
on its sides & at the summit.

a temperature of  $51^{\circ}$  Cent.  
was observed in crevices  
from which gases were  
exhaled. The Jefe told me that  
near Chacana is a somewhat  
higher hill called Cerro Huam-  
oso also said to be an extinct.  
The reason he made the trip  
was because he had heard  
many subterranean eruptive  
rumblings accompanied  
by shocks usually  
from that direction - The  
next a.m. (it's o'clock on the 29<sup>th</sup>)  
as I was leaving the town behind  
me I heard two muffled  
explosions like distant cannon  
shots both in the direction

of this old volcano. no shock  
was perceptible. The people  
of Janitzio have been  
so alarmed by these numerous  
shocks, & that they have built a  
jical in which the school is  
held & everyone living in  
adobe houses has constructed  
a jical in which they sleep  
in an open space from pos-  
sibility of falling walls at night.  
In the day they use the adobe  
buildings. The jefe has his  
sleeping jical in front of the  
office. I was given a room  
in an old adobe building  
with large cracks in the

\*  
At Aguilla, Guanajuato, on Feb 15/95  
at 12:47 P.M. an earthquake was felt  
that lasted 28 seconds at 10:10 P.M.  
same day another one lasted  
45 seconds. This last was very  
strong & accompanied by a loud  
subterranean noise ending with a  
report like a cannon shot  
(Extracted from Mex. newspaper.)

walls while the family  
occupied a newly built  
pical in front of the house.  
During the night two shocks  
were felt at 10<sup>th</sup> long  
after the second one I must  
confess that I slept but  
little for the uncertainty  
was too great. A shock  
much milder than those of  
Nov. 2 or 3, so would bring  
the roofs of these half ruined  
buildings down over oxen head.  
The Jefe <sup>Came</sup> per cause to this  
place last April to replace the  
former Jefe who had been assassinated  
by robbers in revenge for an

effort he had made to capture  
one of them. The present man is  
an old soldier of the revolutionary  
days & he at once put in practice  
a military regime. He ordered  
shot at once all known robbers or  
bandits as soon as they were caught  
as a result over 25 have been  
disposed of since the arrival of  
this govt. He has the country  
searched for them at short  
intervals & the result is that  
the district is becoming tolerably  
peaceable & honest. Before his  
arrival the thieves came into  
the towns at night & stole horses  
& mules out of corrals & com-

milled other deprivations.  
The Jefr admitted to me that  
he had the theor shot for what  
can you do with such people  
he added in depreciation.  
He added that when he came  
here the local officials such  
as Presidents &c were in  
league with the theorists that  
his measures had been well  
taken I can testify from what  
I saw. In Llano Grande the  
people said we need not fear  
losing our things stolen for  
"the Jefr is very severe now &  
robbers are shot since he  
came". The same ideas

was expressed elsewhere & the  
only cause of honesty among the  
people seemed to be in their  
fear of the punishment they  
were likely to get. From  
what I saw of the Jefe I took  
him for a plain, straight-  
forward man with remark-  
ably little affectation & as  
being much more accessible  
to the common people than  
most men in his place -  
He struck me as being peculiarly  
fitted for the office in his com-  
munity when his kind of rule  
was all that prevents semi-anarchy.  
On the next morning I took the  
road again on a horse for

wished by the Jeff with a  
"Tupil" or goat to see our guide  
and to take back the horse from  
the Rio Verde. A two P.M. we  
reached this latter place after  
travelling about 95 m. first  
through the hills near Juniper  
& then along <sup>up</sup> the valley of the Rio  
Verde & its tributary flats which  
are dry at this season.

In these bottoms were seen  
a number of trees & shrubs for  
the first time. The growth was  
low but dense the scrubby trees  
being matted by bushes & vines  
into dense thickets over large  
areas —

Excepting several flycatchers  
& Collie's Magpie & toucans, birds  
were not numerous & no mammals  
were seen except a  
couple of guanacos in the morning.  
A few jacals were passed where  
Indian & negro mixed bloods were living.  
My "tupil" did not know the road  
most of the way and kept trying  
to get out of going farther. Several  
times he called out "Senor, Senor,  
I can't go any farther." But  
did it so goodnaturedly was  
so easily persuaded to continue  
that it was amusing rather than  
annoying. Finally we came to

the ~~2~~ Crossing of the Rio Verde  
when my "tupil" took the horse  
I had been riding & hired another  
with a man to go with me at  
once to the next village en-  
route where we arrived about  
5 P.M. ~~home~~ and I thus made  
40 miles <sup>today</sup> despite my lame horse.  
<sup>DB</sup> At this village of Zepanistlahuaca  
the people were holding a  
council over the invasion of  
their lands by some neighboring  
villages. The President, secretary  
& Regidors were sitting on  
benches against the wall  
of the municipal building

the other men were grouped  
about at ~~800~~ 800 logds.  
distance, squatting in a  
semicircle on the ground  
& discussing the matts in  
a quiet way, each speaking  
from his place. As no one came  
out on my arrival I sent in my  
letter down that produced no result  
so, after waiting until nearly dark  
I went into the council and  
talked pretty sharply to the President  
for his neglect whereupon he  
quickly sent men stirring  
about to get the things necessary  
for my horse for my own stay  
overnight as well as I required.

another horse for me to use on  
to the next village tomorrow.  
It was curious to see how quickly  
the people here became attached  
as soon as I had shown them that  
although a foreigner I expected  
them to do their duty. After passing  
a flea to mended night I  
made an early start the next  
morning reached the village of  
Panixtlahuaca a little before  
noon, crossing a rough, hilly  
country between. In fact  
from the Rio Verde yesterday  
the road is always among the  
hills but is roughest after  
leaving the first village.

Tepanixtahuaca is 15m. from  
Río Verde & Panixtahuaca  
is 16m. further. The former  
place is in the dry hills  
but the latter is <sup>in a</sup> among  
narrow valley where the water  
of a creek enables the people  
to grow oranges, bananas  
Sugar Cane, etc. After some  
delay at this place I secured  
a small mule & a man to go  
on to Jiquila which is 13  
miles farther. The road  
became still more hilly the  
slopes being steeper and  
higher with pines along the

R.J.H.

ridges & down the slopes.  
Several fine clear mt. streams  
of small size flow down the  
deep canyons here.  
At about 4800 ft. the oaks  
open,<sup>on n. slopes</sup> showed that a cooler  
climate was entered. But  
these were few until an  
alt. of about 5000 ft. was  
reached. This is the alt. of  
Jiquila itself which is a  
small dingy town of low  
adobe houses & jacals with  
tile & thatched roofs. It is  
a town of only a few hundred  
people. And is built on a steep

hillside & ridge so that the streets  
houses are seen climbing  
about one above the other in  
a confused broken manner.  
On an artificial terrace in  
the middle of the place is a huge  
Church building of masonry  
roofed that is cracked so  
that appears to contain as  
much material in its walls  
as goes to make up all the rest of  
the town. This loc. is at the extreme  
lower edge of the frost belt so  
few small coffee orchards are  
found about the houses in town  
where the houses protect them.

The Coffe plantations of this district which give it its reputation are at considerable distance from the town & we pass them on our way to Pochutta. The town Huquila has a lonely appearance and evidently has no benefit from the Coffe boom.

The Jefe Politico here is Octaviano Jijon - He has the largest Hda. in the dist. <sup>(La emeraldas)</sup> which he claims to contain 100000 each of Rubber, Cacao & Coffe trees.

His rubber is at about 80 ft sat 8 years yield about 4 oz. mtr. These are transplanted from nursery at 2 yrs. of age.

The Rubber & cacao on the Jijon plantations are irrigated

The rubber tree is planted in  
nursery 8 in. apart & kept  
there until 2 yrs. old.

10200 lbs.

Cacao is at about same alt. as  
rubber & at 8 yrs. just begins  
to yield. Jijon considers Cacao  
the best crop as comp with rubber.  
This tree is transp. at 6 or 8 months  
of age but the least injury to tap  
root causes the plant to die  
so that a considerable percentage  
of these trees 25 to 50 have to be replaced.  
At a higher alt. <sup>72500 ft</sup> ~~72000 ft~~ on the  
same Hda. Jijon planted 20000  
coffee trees & cultivated them  
for 3 yrs. at a total cost of about  
\$26000 & this year (end of 3d yr.)  
he gathered from these trees a  
crop worth over \$3000. thus more than  
repaying original cost.

I was afterward informed that one method Jijón employed to get men to work on his land was to sentence petty offenders to work there a week or so at a time. For this a large delegation went to Oaxaca to complain to he was suspended from office for a while but was soon reinstated again.

Left Jiquila March 4<sup>th</sup>  
& travelled 23 miles to the village of Popala lying at an alt. of 1%o ft.  
in a S.E. course across a sharp ridge that rises to 7000 ft. just  
east of Jiquila when descending in a long steep slope toward the

coast. A few pines & oaks  
remnants of the former  
forest grow along the top of this  
ridge but most of the country  
about Juguila has its early  
forest destroyed & small bushy  
second growth in its place.

Rising up the NW. slope of the  
ridge east of Juguila from  
5500 to 6000 ft. the flora  
changed from that of the  
lower to that of the higher  
zones and oaks, pines  
Madrones, *Eryngium* ~~leptophyllum~~  
~~variolosum~~ sp., *Lobelia*, *Zoysia*  
*Salvia*, *Luzula* and *Gnaphalium*,

*Sambucus*, ~~Sabicea~~ Vahl.

At 6000 ft. *Satyrus*, a slender sp. of *Yucca*, *Anona* and *Aguacate* were conspicuous members of the flora characteristic of the zone bordering the lower frost limit.

On the S.E. slope toward *Mopala* the pines ended at about 2300 ft. where the tall slender *Cecropia*, *ear pod trees* & the large yellow flowered tree began to be common with many other tropical species. From *Mopala* our road continued in a S.E. course all the next day.

In the town of Nopala, as usual, we  
were given the municipal building to  
sleep in and used the tables for  
boards to raise us above the vermin  
of the earthen floor. In the morning  
while at breakfast we saw a half dozen  
men gather about the house with guns  
& machetes & after being instructed  
by the Presidente they started off  
& within a few minutes came  
back with a couple of men prisoners  
with their arms tied by ropes  
fastened above the elbows & the  
ends held by men behind  
while others walked before &  
behind as guard. These prisoners  
were thus taken across the mt.

to Jiquila. The President sent a boy with us to show us the right road a couple of miles out of town and thence on we continued on by ourselves as usual. For some time we descended along the valley of the creek here at 1400 ft. ~~the~~ top <sup>and</sup> <sup>low</sup> sides of a ridge were found covered with a thin growth of pines of the ordinary hot country species. Then a few *Croso palus*, *Cecropias* other hot country species. Common <sup>4</sup> Leaving the valley we crossed a steep sided ridge having an alt. of 3800 - 4000 ft.

On the top & seaward slope  
of the upper part of this ridge  
above 3500 ft. are various  
coffee plantations, mainly old  
ones but some new ones  
are being put out. The soil  
is decomposed white granite  
with a thin layer of vegetable  
mould which the summer rains  
washes away until the bare white  
soil is left & the coffee trees then  
gradually cease yielding.  
The most of the much talked  
about dist. of Jiquila is of this  
character & can bear no com-  
parison with the rich lands of

\* An intelligent young man  
on one of the old plantations has  
told me that he had recently  
cleared the land for wood  
copper trees - planted 18000,  
had holes dug for 6000 more  
in a nursery of 25000 plants  
at a total cost of \$2000.

parts of eastern Mexico  
plantations are made here  
without shade & without irriga-  
tion. Leaving the top of the  
ridge a sharp descent began  
toward the coast. On this  
slope pines end at 3500 ft.  
although going down to 1400  
ft. on opposite side of the ridge.  
The lower oaks were mixed  
with the pines & another set  
ranged down in a belt  
between 3500 & 2300 ft.  
Bet. 2500 & 3000 ft. is a  
heavy belt of *Crocosmia palmeri*  
which form strips of forest in  
places - along sides of canyons

at 2300 ft. begins the dry hot belt of the coast country characterized by the curious oak-like shrubby tree with white flowers on the sterile ridges.

The abundant veg. of the moister slope above 2300 ft. gives way quite abruptly to the smaller & coarser veg. of the coast hills. The geol. form. is the same on the ridges on the lower hills - at an early hour we reached the village of San Pedro Mixtepec. Here I showed my letters to the President who

was half drunk & showed me  
the empty calaboose as the room  
I might occupy. This I re-  
fused to accept & he then  
finally opened the Community  
house & we took possession  
of it. In the eve. when I wished  
to have something to eat I  
sent word to him asking him to  
be kind enough to send to  
some place to have supper  
prepared. To this he replied  
by sending back word that I  
could go find it myself. I  
thereupon walked down to  
his house & finding him in

an unpleasant mood I told him I would report his conduct to at headquarters & returned to the stopping place.

In a few minutes he suddenly appeared & after a few remarks apologised & complied with my request. From his manner henceforth until we left the next morning it was evident that he was trying to make up for his error. Had I not been well provided with letters, however, it is certain that we would not have fared well here. This place is 720 m. from Nopala sat 750 ft above sea level.

All copper from this district is shipped from Puerto Escondido which is on the coast about 15 miles from San Pedro toward Puerto Angel. At this place they seemed to be in great fear of losing some of their old muzzle loading guns & the President cautioned me about being careful about letting any one into the room where they were stored and two men slept in the room with us while others were outside as usual. These precautions made it appear that they were either afraid of their own people or us.

9/6

The next morning we re-  
sumed our way with a change  
to an almost east & course  
nearly parallel to the coast.

22 miles from 8<sup>n</sup> Redou we  
reached the village of Labotpec  
250 ft. above the sea. Then I  
had another slight dispute  
with the President over his  
lack of courtesy & the insistence  
with which he kept repeating  
that I must pay for everything  
I got although I had already  
told him that I would pay for  
everything. To the entire town  
here seemed to be at work.

When at Pochutla this President  
chanced to be there & complained to  
the Jefe Politico that I had mistreated  
him. The Jefe sent for me & I explained  
everything to him & he told the Pres-  
ident that he should have done  
as I said he ought.

on the walls of a large new  
Church which was being built  
of rough, cobblestone masonry  
with brick arches. The work  
was being directed by the Regidors  
& was evidently ~~under~~ directly  
under control of the Authorities.  
From here to Coqualeetza <sup>P.B.</sup>  
24 m. & 500 ft. alt. we made  
the next day keeping the  
same course. At this  
place we were rec'd. in a  
pleasant manner by the  
old President & I was glad  
to escape the necessity of having  
a quarrel with him as has been  
the case so frequently lately.

SB

The 8<sup>th</sup> of March we reached  
Pochutta - 28 miles from  
Cozalopee <sup>ualtopea</sup> at an alt. of  
500 ft. from San Pedro  
Mixtepec to this place  
the road has been over a  
constant succession of the  
dry coast hills among the  
low, scrubby vegetation  
under the constant scorching  
of the sun down a nearly  
cloudless sky. The days morn-  
ings are cool & pleasant &  
the nights are constantly cool  
enough so a blanket is com-  
fortable. At gam, the sun gets

uncomfortably warm & at from  
10 to 10.30 a.m. a foree spring  
up which lasts until about  
2.30 P.M., when it dies away.  
This foree tempers the heat  
in the middle of the day when  
one is on the open hills where  
it stabs him. The tops of these  
hill & their upper slopes are  
very sparingly covered with  
low trees & bushes & often  
have only a thin covering of dry  
yellow grass at this season.  
The trails are dusty from the  
long drought and the trees &  
vegetation still having leaves

(conclusion)

Many species of these  
trees while their leaves  
during the winter months  
bear flowers & often bear  
great masses of flowers  
forming conspicuous  
objects in the landscape  
with their masses of red,  
purple or yellow flowers.

and dusty. Along shore  
the trees have shed their leaves  
however, & we frequently passed  
through long stretches of low  
brushy woods almost or quite bare  
~~of leaves~~. The dry leaves rustled  
underfoot. I was constantly minded  
in such places of the appearance  
of a second growth wood in the middle  
states in late autumn but the hot  
sun & the strange forms of  
seeds or flowers borne by  
~~these~~ some of these trees often  
distracted one's thoughts.  
The mahogany & others  
while leafless have the ripening  
seed pods conspicuous.

In El Noticiero of  
Fevers 14 Feb. 95  
(City of Mex.) is the  
Statement that the Ganta  
delegacion de Cascles on  
its visit to Belen last Monday  
was given about 200 complaints  
by prisoners among which  
some of the prisoners stated  
that they had been there since  
1893 at the disposition of the  
Criminal Court without  
having been called before  
it or sentenced -

In El Noticiero of Feb.  
15/95 is a notice dated Puebla  
Feb 13/95 describes an  
attack by 60 bandits on foot

those back on the ~~Hua.~~  
~~Guadalupe~~ American  
Colony on the Hda. of  
Guadalupe dist<sup>to</sup> of  
~~Huay~~ Huayötzingo, Puebla  
A force of 20 Rurales at  
San Martin Texmula can  
were notified at once but  
although the attack was  
at 7 A.M. of Sunday the  
soldiers did not start out  
until 2 A.M. Monday -

3 Americans & a mex  
servant were wounded  
killed -

With no tool except  
wooden handles  
and thin poles  
of this spindly  
and spiny plant

they would  
gather the wood  
and take out  
the thorns  
and then  
make a fire  
and burn the  
spiny plants  
so that they  
would be  
easier to handle.

